

PRESS RELEASE

8 July 1991

THE LATEST CRACKDOWN IN ALGERIA

In a statement issued today the London-based Islamic Council expressed great concern about the grave situation created by the Algerian regime's brutal crackdown on the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

In a blatant attempt to stop the process of democratisation, the regime has arrested thousands of people who have been striving for the respect of human rights and the rule of law .

To add insult to injury, the regime has deployed the nation's army in the cities and imposed a state of siege throughout the country. It has also closed a number of mosques to worshippers.

The Council called upon the regime to release all political detainees, to reinstate the thousands of workers who have been sacked from their jobs for taking part in pro-democracy demonstrations, and return the army to the barracks.

The Council also called upon the regime to fix firm dates for free and fair elections to the national assembly and the presidency.

The Council expressed the hope that the regime will not permit a repetition of the bloody events of October 1988. It called upon the army and the people of Algeria to work hand in hand for the progress, prosperity and stability of Algeria .

The Council's statement ended by invoking the blessings of Allah on Algeria and its people.